



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26568 7590 09/11/2008

COOK ALEX LTD  
SUITE 2850  
200 WEST ADAMS STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

HO, HA DINH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3681

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/568,322

06/02/2006

Angelo Ripamonti

0527-0243

4619

TITLE OF INVENTION: HYDROMECHANICAL TRANSMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/11/2008

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

#### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

26568 7590 09/11/2008

COOK ALEX LTD  
SUITE 2850  
200 WEST ADAMS STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60606

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,322	06/02/2006	Angelo Ripamonti	0527-0243	4619

TITLE OF INVENTION: HYDROMECHANICAL TRANSMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	12/11/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HO, HA DINH	3681	475-083000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/568,322	06/02/2006	Angelo Ripamonti	0527-0243	4619
26568	7590	09/11/2008	EXAMINER	
COOK ALEX LTD SUITE 2850 200 WEST ADAMS STREET CHICAGO, IL 60606			HO, HA DINH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3681	
DATE MAILED: 09/11/2008				

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 406 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 406 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/568,322

Examiner

HA D. HO

Applicant(s)

RIPAMONTI ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed 06/02/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>02/06/06</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                   | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance             |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.   |

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Murphy on 09/08/08.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

#### **Abstract**

The abstract has been replaced by the following new abstract:

--The transmission comprises: an input shaft coupled to a prime mover of the tractor; an output shaft; a hydrostatic unit including a pump driven by the prime mover shaft and a motor driven by the pump; an epicyclic torque splitter unit, including a first and a second input shaft and a first and a second output shaft, the rotational speeds of the first and second output shafts varying, respectively, in a first and a second range adjacent to each other as the rotational speed of the first input shaft varies between a maximum value and a minimum value; a clutch unit, arranged to couple the output shaft of the transmission selectively to the first or second output shaft of the torque splitter unit to provide a pair of forward operating ranges, at high and low speed respectively; and a reversing unit, arranged to provide a reverse operating range . --

#### **Specification**

Art Unit: 3681

- On page 1, --FIELD OF THE INVENTION-- have been inserted between the title and the first paragraph.
- On page 1, --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-- have been inserted between the first and the second paragraphs.
- On page 1, the fourth paragraph has been deleted and --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- have been inserted thereto.
- On page 2, --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- have been inserted between lines 19 and 20.
- On page 3, --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION-- have been inserted between lines 10 and 11.

### **Claims**

- Claim 1, line 6, “the” (first occurrence) has been changed to --a--.
- Claim 1, line 12, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 1, line 14, “the epicyclic type” have been changed to --an epicyclic gearing--.
- Claim 1, line 16, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 1, line 20, “the” (second occurrence) has been deleted.
- Claim 1, line 29, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 1, line 37, “the” (second occurrence) has been deleted.
- Claim 1, line 39, “the” (second occurrence) has been deleted.
- Claim 4, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 4, line 8, --second input-- have been inserted after “the” (second occurrence).

Art Unit: 3681

- Claim 4, last line, “gearings” has been changed to --first and third gear wheels--.
- Claim 4, last line, --the second and fourth gear wheels-- have been inserted after “and”.
- Claim 5, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 5, line 15, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 5, line 16, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 5, line 18, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 6, lines 1-2, “any one of Claims 1 to 4” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 6, line 16, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 6, line 17, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 7, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 7, line 4, “first” has been changed to --third--.
- Claim 7, line 4, “second” has been changed to --fourth--.
- Claim 7, line 5, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 7, line 6, “first” has been changed to --third--.
- Claim 7, line 7, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 7, line 8, “second” has been changed to --fourth--.
- Claim 7, line 14, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 7, line 15, “each” has been changed to --the--.
- Claim 7, line 18, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 7, line 18, --third and fourth-- have been inserted after “said”.
- Claim 7, line 19, “S6” has been changed to --S8--.
- Claim 8, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.

Art Unit: 3681

- Claim 8, line 4, “the first and second” have been changed to --a third and fourth--.
- Claim 8, line 5, “the” (second occurrence) has been deleted.
- Claim 8, line 9, “second” has been changed to --fourth--.
- Claim 8, line 10, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 9, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 9, line 5, “the” has been deleted.
- Claim 9, line 6, “the” (first occurrence) has been changed to --a--.
- Claim 9, line 8, “aforesaid” has been deleted.
- Claim 10, lines 3-4, “output shaft (S3) of the hydrostatic unit (HU), in other words that of the” have been deleted.
- Claim 10, line 9, “the” (second occurrence) has been deleted.
- Claim 11, lines 1-2, “any one of the preceding claims” have been changed to --claim 1--.
- Claim 11, line 4, “the” (second occurrence) has been changed to --a--.
- Claim 11, line 5, “the” (first occurrence) has been changed to --a--.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a continuously variable hydromechanical transmission for agricultural tractors as defined by the limitations of claim 1; including an input shaft; an output shaft; a hydrostatic unit including a pump driven by the prime mover shaft and a motor driven by the pump and positioning in parallel with the input shaft; an epicyclic torque splitter unit including a first and a second input shaft and a first and a second output shaft and positioning in line with the hydrostatic unit; a clutch unit positioning in line with



Art Unit: 3681

the hydrostatic unit and arranged to couple the output shaft of the transmission selectively to a first or second output shaft of the torque splitter unit to provide a pair of forward operating ranges, at high and low speed respectively; and a reversing unit positioning in line with the hydrostatic unit and interposed between the clutch unit and the output shaft of the transmission.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Cited Prior Art***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: see attached form PTO-892 of which each reference shows a continuously variable hydromechanical transmission having a hydrostatic unit including a pump and a motor, and at least one planetary gear set.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-7091. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095.

Art Unit: 3681

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/HDH/  
(571) 272-7091  
September 11, 2008

/Ha D. Ho/  
Primary Examiner, A.U. 3681